Claims

1. An ester phosphobetaine conforming to the following structure;

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{3} \\ R^{1}\text{-}C(O)O\text{-}(CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{a}\text{-}(CH_{2}CH(CH_{3})O)_{b}\text{-}(CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{c}\text{-}P(O)\text{-}OCH_{2}\text{-}CH(OH)CH_{2}\text{-}N^{+}\text{-}R^{2} \\ | & | \\ O^{-} & CH_{3} \end{array}$$

wherein;

R¹ is alkyl or alkylene having between 7 and 21 carbon atoms;

a, b and c are each independently integers ranging from 0 to 20, with the proviso that a + b + c be equal to or greater than 1;

R² is selected from the group consisting of;

alkyl having 7 to 21 carbon atoms

and

R³ is alkyl having 7 to 21 carbon atoms.

2. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 1 wherein R² alkyl having 7 to 21 carbon atoms.

- 3. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 1 wherein R² is R³-C(O)-N(H)-(CH₂)₃-.
- 4. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₇ H₁₇.
- 5. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₉ H₁₉.
- 6. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₁₁ H₂₃.
- 7. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R^1 is $C_{13} H_{27}$.
- 8. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R^1 is C_{15} H_{31} .
- 9. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₁₇ H₃₅.
- 10. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₁₉ H₃₉.
- 11. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 2 wherein R¹ is C₂₁ H₄₃.
- 12. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₇ H₁₇.
- 13. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₉ H₁₉.
- 14. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R^1 is C_{11} H_{23} .
- 15. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R^1 is $C_{13}H_{27}$.
- 16. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₅ H₃₁.
- 17. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₇ H₃₅.
- 18. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₉ H₃₉.
- 19. An ester phosphobetaine of claim 3 wherein R^1 is C_{21} H_{43} .